

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure on page 26 of Applicants' specification with the following Abstract of the Disclosure:

-- ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A digital signature generating apparatus generates a digital signature of digital data. The digital signature generating apparatus includes a receiving unit, the secret key changing unit and a digital signature generating unit. The receiving unit receives one of a first command and a second command. The first command includes information indicating one of a plurality of secret keys, and the plurality of secret keys are included in the digital signature generating apparatus. The secret key changing unit changes a secret key used by the digital signature generating apparatus to a secret key specified by the first command, if the first command is received by the receiving unit. The digital signature generating unit generates the digital signature of the digital data ~~using the secret key specified by the first command~~ from a hash value extracted from the second command, if the second command is received by the receiving unit.--.